initiated against the former Deputy Director General of Shipping. The case is pending trial in the Court of the Special Judge, Greater Mumbai.

**Recovery of Dues from Political Parties by ITDC**

*336. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 2nd December, 1999 captioned "Politicians owe ITDC Rs. 43 crore";

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount incurred party-wise, item-wise and date-wise;

(c) what efforts have so far been made by ITDC to recover the amount due from the concerned people;

(d) what is the total amount so far recovered indicating the amount still outstanding (party-wise); and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The outstanding dues against the politicians and political parties are of Rs. 49.70 lacs only as on 31st March, 99 as per details given below:

(Rs. in lacs)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Political Parties | Indian National Congress and its wings such as NSUI, Indian Youth Congress etc. | 28.97 |
| Individual Politicians | | 20.73 |

These outstanding are for various periods ranging from 1979 to 1999. Rest of the outstanding dues are against other clients including Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Travel Agents Licencees etc.

(c) The steps being taken to realise the outstanding amount include periodical reminders, personal contacts, periodical review both at unit and corporate level, seeking assistance from the Administrative Ministry and resorting to legal action wherever considered necessary.

(d) and (e) Out of outstanding of Rs. 49.70 lacs, an amount of Rs. 0.41 lac has been recovered from individual politician.

**Upgradation of Telecommunication System in Himachal Pradesh**

*337. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated/utilised for development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunication system in rural/urban areas of Himachal Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether Government would consider allotment of of more STD lines to the Exchanges where one line has been in operation in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when these Telephone Exchanges will be provided with more STD lines?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The funds allocated/utilised for development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunications system in rural/urban areas of Himachal Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise and Secondary Switching Area-wise are given in the Statement I and II (*See* below).

There are 12 exchanges i.e. Bharanoo, Chambi in Shimla District, Giankot, Neripul, Drabla and Ronhat in Sirmour Distrtict, Mangal in Solan District, Bhakhare, Majeri, Talyana and Zakatkhana in Bilaspur District and Thaltukhod in Mandi District in Himachal Pradesh which have single circuit/line and for the convenience of public, STD facility has presently been extended under Group Dialling Scheme. These exchanges are planned to be provided more